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 INFO RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE 2984
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FOR NEA ASST. SECRETARY MURPHY FROM AMBASSADOR REED

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR

TAGS: PGOV, PINS, PREL, PTER, CE, IN, US

SUBJECT: (S) SECOND MEETING BETWEEN SENATOR PERCY
 AND PRESIDENT JAYEWARDENE

REF: TOMSETH-TOMSEN TELCON

1. SECRET ENTIRE TEXT.

2. THIS IS AN ACTION MESSAGE.

3. PRESIDENT JAYEWARDENE HAS REQUESTED A SECOND MEETING WITH SENATOR PERCY AND ONE HAS BEEN SET FOR 6:00 P.M. TUESDAY, JANUARY 1. SENATOR PERCY BELIEVES THAT HE NOT GO INTO THIS MEETING WITHOUT SOME SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS HE CAN MAKE TO JAYEWARDENE REGARDING CURRENT IMPASSE IN THE EFFORT TO RESOLVE SRI LANKA'S COMMUNAL PROBLEM. I CONCLUDE THE MOST USEFUL MESSAGE SENATOR PERCY CAN DELIVER WILL BE A REITERATION OF THE BASIC POINTS CONTAINED IN AMBASSADOR WALTERS' INSTRUCTIONS EARLIER THIS MONTH: (A) THAT A MILITARY SOLUTION IS NOT POSSIBLE, AND (B) INDIA MUST BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT A POLITICAL SOLUTION. ACCORDINGLY, I HAVE TRIED TO EXTRACT MATERIAL FROM AMBASSADOR WALTERS' BRIEF AND TAILOR IT FOR SENATOR PERCY'S USE IN THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. THIS IS SET OUT BELOW. WE NEED THE DEPARTMENT'S APPROVAL FOR SENATOR PERCY TO GO AHEAD WITH THIS APPROACH -- OR ALTERNATIVE INSTRUCTIONS AND TALKING POINTS -- BY OPENING OF BUSINESS OUR TIME TUESDAY, JANUARY 1. PLEASE PROVIDE GUIDANCE BY NIACT IMMEDIATE CABLE.

4. PROPOSED OBJECTIVES AND TALKING POINTS FOR SENATOR PERCY:

OBJECTIVES

-- TO REITERATE THE U.S. VIEW THAT THERE CAN BE NO
 MILITARY SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF TAMIL SEPARATIST

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TERRORISM IN THE NORTH AND EAST OF SRI LANKA SINCE THE TERRORISTS WILL BE ABLE TO MATCH WHATEVER ADDITIONAL MILITARY CAPABILITIES THE GSL SECURITY FORCES MAY ACQUIRE.

-- TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF INDIA'S ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT IN EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT SINCE ONLY INDIA HAS THE INFLUENCE TO GAIN MODERATE TAMIL ACCEPTANCE OF COMPROMISE PROPOSALS AND ONLY INDIA HAS THE POWER TO RESTRAIN SEPARATIST ACTIVITIES TO A DEGREE WHERE THEY CAN BE EFFECTIVELY DEALT WITH BY GSL SECURITY FORCES.

TALKING POINTS

-- I KNOW THAT EVENTS OF THE LAST TWO WEEKS HAVE BEEN A DISAPPOINTMENT TO YOU, JUST AS THEY HAVE BEEN TO US.

-- BUT IT REMAINS OUR VIEW THAT A POLITICAL SOLUTION MUST BE FOUND TO THE PROBLEM OF COMMUNAL RELATIONS IN SRI LANKA.

-- TALK I HAVE READ ABOUT IN THE SRI LANKAN PRESS SINCE MY ARRIVAL THAT TERRORISM MUST BE ELIMINATED BEFORE EFFORTS ARE RENEWED TO FIND A POLITICAL SOLUTION, HOWEVER, IS CONTRARY TO WHAT WE BELIEVE IS POSSIBLE.

-- A MILITARY SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF TERRORISM, WHICH DEPENDS UPON PRESENT DISAFFECTION AMONG TAMILS OF THE NORTH AND EAST, IS NOT FEASIBLE SINCE THE TERRORISTS WILL BE ABLE TO MATCH WHATEVER ENHANCED ARMS CAPABILITY GSL SECURITY FORCES MAY ACQUIRE.

-- WE REMAIN CONVINCED THAT INDIA'S ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT IN THE EFFORT TO FIND A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IS ESSENTIAL.

-- ONLY INDIA HAS SUFFICIENT INFLUENCE WITH MODERATE TAMILS TO CONVINCE THEM THAT THEY SHOULD ACCEPT A REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION BASED ON THE DEVOLUTION POWER TO CONTROL THEIR OWN AFFAIRS IN TAMIL-MAJORITY AREAS OF SRI LANKA.

-- AND ONLY INDIA HAS THE ABILITY TO CONSTRAIN THE ACTIVITIES OF SEPARATIST GROUPS OPERATING FROM TAMIL

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NADU SO THAT IT WILL BECOME POSSIBLE, ONCE THE TERRORISTS HAVE BEEN DELINKED FROM THEIR SUPPORT BASE AMONG THE TAMIL POPULATION IN THE NORTH AND EAST, FOR SRI LANKAN SECURITY FORCES TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH WHATEVER RESIDUAL THREAT THEY MIGHT POSE.

-- I BELIEVE IT COULD BE VERY USEFUL FOR YOU TO HOLD AN EARLY MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER GANDHI NOW THAT THE INDIAN ELECTIONS ARE OUT OF THE WAY.

-- I INTEND TO ENCOURAGE HIM TO MEET WITH YOU WHEN I GO TO NEW DELHI.

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-- FOR SUCH A MEETING TO SUCCEED, HOWEVER, IT WILL BE
IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO HAVE IN MIND CONCRETE PROPOSALS
DESIGNED TO MEET MODERATE TAMIL CONCERNS WHICH WILL
ENCOURAGE PRIME MINISTER GANDHI TO BRING INDIA'S
POSITIVE INFLUENCE TO BEAR ON SRI LANKA'S COMMUNAL
PROBLEM.

-- THE NEED FOR BOLD LEADERSHIP TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM
IS GREATER NOW THAN EVER BEFORE, AND WE HOPE THAT YOU
WILL EXERCISE SUCH LEADERSHIP AS YOU HAVE DONE IN THE
PAST WHEN YOUR COUNTRY FACED CRISES. REED
END OF MESSAGE SECRET

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